

INSIDE

FEBRUARY 2009

PAGE 2 Mayor Winstead on City finances.

PAGE 3 Financial update.

PAGE 4 IKEA employees take charge.

PAGE 5 Human Services news.

PAGE 6 Arts, parks and recreation.

PAGE 7 Around the city.

PAGE 8 Path to a Council land use decision.

FROZEN IN TIME

TIME CAPSULE INCLUDES 150TH MEDALLION



A MEDALLION created to commemorate Bloomington's Sesquicentennial was included in a Minnesota

time capsule to be opened on the state's 200th birthday in 2058. The time capsule, which was sealed during a "Thank You, Minnesota" Sesquicentennial reception at the State Capitol, will be kept at the Minnesota Historical Society until it is unsealed during the state's bicentennial celebration.

TAKE A TASTE



**EXPERIENCE
JAPANESE
CULTURE**

EXPERIENCE AUTHENTIC JAPANESE food and music at Bloomington Sister City's annual fundraiser, Taste of Japan, on **Saturday, March 7, 5 - 9 p.m.**, at Bloomington Civic Plaza. This year's event will feature comedian and magician Bob Kubota, who has appeared on Comedy Central and MTV, in addition to Taiko drumming, a raffle, silent and live auctions and Japanese Bento Box dinners from Fuji Ya.

Reservations are required by February 27. Tickets are \$55, adults and \$25, students. For more information, contact Bloomington Sister City at 952-563-8713; TTY: 952-563-8740 or e-mail sistercity@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

2009 HEALTH PROMOTION AWARDS NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED THROUGH FEBRUARY 19

THE BLOOMINGTON ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH is now seeking nominations for its 2009 Health Promotion Award, which recognizes an individual, business or organization that has made a difference in the health and wellness of Bloomington residents. For nomination forms, call 952-563-8919 or visit the City's website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Health Promotion Award.

IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR

REFLECTING ON BLOOMINGTON'S 150TH

In 2008, the City hosted 24 special Sesquicentennial-themed events. From the in-your-face pie-eating contest at the Old Town Hall's May 11 opening to carriage rides at the Minnesota Masonic Home Family Celebration, events attracted more than 110,000 people. City publications sported a new logo and look to highlight the Sesquicentennial year. Many historical photo submissions were received, including those of Bloomington's Century Families, that will enrich the City's photo archive.

The year's highlight was the celebration at Old Town Hall in May, which marked the day the Town of Bloomington was organized. More than 2,000 people came to view firsthand a piece of real Bloomington history – the newly-restored Old Town Hall that was a vital part of Bloomington's past and present identity.

Major events included: the Bloomington and Minnesota Historical Societies' Irv Norling photo exhibit, which drew 20,000 viewers; the Global Celebration and Farmers Market kickoff, which attracted 2,000 attendees; and the Fire Station Open Houses, which saw 7,500 visitors.



ROAD TO A BETTER BLOOMINGTON

TRANSPORTATION IN THE FOREFRONT

BLOOMINGTON RESIDENTS and businesses rely on the regional highway system and local roads to be functional and safe. Road construction, although a temporary inconvenience to our daily routines, is necessary in order for the City to continue to provide motorists a safe and structurally sound roadway system.

The following are just two of a number of initiatives the City and partner organizations are working on to improve transportation.



ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The City of Bloomington's *Alternative Transportation Plan* is in its implementation stage. With the assistance of a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, the City created a plan that encourages walking, biking and other modes of transportation. The Plan, the blueprint for a system, will enhance the quality of life for Bloomington residents and everyone who travels throughout the city. Recommendations include building more trails, improving existing trails, walkways and other pedestrian-level infrastructure, connecting residents and employees to major destinations and developing safe, convenient alternatives to vehicle travel.

Strategic priorities include:

- Enhancing pedestrian access to schools by implementing a Safe Routes to School program.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
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CLEARING CONGESTION ON I-35W

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) will be making improvements to portions of the I-35W corridor stretching from Minneapolis to Lakeville. The City of Bloomington, as part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Partnership Agreement, is working to develop innovative choices in traffic congestion relief through tolling, transit, technology and telecommuting.

Funding is in place for the following project steps:

- Convert existing high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane to a high occupancy toll (HOT) lane.
- Construct an additional collector/distributor lane for northbound I-35W to westbound I-494.
- Introduce a fourth lane across the Minnesota River from West 106th Street to TH-13.
- Make Intelligent Transportation System improvements in the I-35W corridor to provide travel information to the corridor users.

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